1. Opening of the Meeting
The Chair Gylfi Geirsson, Iceland, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, stressing and progress needed to be made ahead of the PECMAC meeting.
Contracting Parties were represented with the exception of the Russian Federation. The list of participants, document AHWG-ERS 2018-01-02 is annexed to this report.

2. Appointment of the rapporteur
The Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Discussion and adoption of the Agenda
The agenda was agreed as circulated in document AHWG ERS 2018-01-01.
The Secretariat informed the CPs that specific final decisions needed to be made by the end of the meeting so that the production of the new integrated database would not be delayed.

4. Continued work on Proposed Amendments of the Scheme
The Chair introduced document AHWG ERS 2018-01-04 on “Amended Draft Articles of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement”.

The Participants reviewed and discussed extensively each of the relevant articles of the Scheme and the wording was either confirmed or amended. The amended text is now in document 2018-01-04 Rev 1.

This document was seen in conjunction with documents AHWG ERS 2018-01-03, 2018-01-05 and 2018-01-12.

4.1 Scheme
Norway presented documents AHWG ERS 2018-01-07 and 2018-01-08 both referring to “Norwegian Proposal to Amend Draft Articles of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement”. The amended text is now in document 2018-01-07 Rev 1.

It was agreed that a small group of experts will evaluate the future relevance Annex 9.D.2.a. of the Scheme when compared with the “Implementation Document”. This item was added to the list of tasks to be undertaken intersessionally.
4.2 Annexes
The Chair presented introduced document AHWG ERS 2018-01-11 on “Amended Draft Annexes of the Scheme”. The Participants reviewed in detail the outstanding issues either confirming or amending the text. The amended text is now in document 2018-01-11 Rev 1.

5. Continued work on the FLUX UN/CEFACT implementation document for the NEAFC Context
The EU introduced documents AHWG ERS 2018-01-09 and 2018-01-10 on the “Implementation Document”. The Participants asked for some clarification on specific points.

6. UN/CEFACT
6.1 Status of the implementation of UN/CEFACT FLUX within the EU
EU informed the Participants on the recent developments on the implementation of UN/CEFACT FLUX.

Version 1.5.8 of FLUX TL, the software for exchanging UN/CEFACT data, is used by almost all EU member states. A new version 1.7.1 of the FLUX TL is being finalised; VMS data is being presently exchanged in UN/CEFACT format between 14 EU member States; The FLUX FMC tool to visualise fishing activities data in UN/CEFACT format is in the final phase of production and should be ready in April; the EU is working with FAO’s Global Record of Fishing Vessels and a new fleet management tool should be operational in June; data relating to the licencing of fishing vessels will be developed within the next 18 months; EFCA is also working in order to develop an electronic inspection report that should be used within 18 months.

6.2 UN/CEFACT Proof of Concept
There were no documents presented under this agenda point. No Participants had comments.

7. Status report by the Secretariat
7.1 Testing of;
7.1.1 Transportation layer
The Secretariat briefly summarised the recent activity of the FLUX-TL connection between the EU and the Secretariat which is currently in test.

7.1.2 Business layer
7.1.3 The FLUX transportation layer and the VMS data exchange with NEAFC Secretariat
The Secretariat updated the group about the progress towards accepting VMS positions over FLUX-TL and summarised the steps required and possible timeline towards using this in production i.e. for sending and receiving real time position messages and bridging them into the current NEAFC VMS (i.e. operating in NAF format).
8. Discussion on Requirements for the new NEAFC system

8.1 Identifying Requirements for the Inspectors Web Interface

For information, the Secretariat introduced document AHWG ERS 2018-01-14 on “MCS Requirements”, describing the very recent work on the MCS interface with the service provider.

There were no comments by the Participants.

9. Timelines for the implementation of ERS in NEAFC

The Secretariat confirmed that if specific requirements were not finalised at the present meeting the production would be delayed for at least 5 months. The Secretariat, with input from the service provider, is in the process of making a final review and assessment of the current status to ascertain whether or not there is sufficient clarity in the work so far to keep to the existing timeline.

10. Preparation of a transition plan

10.1 System to be used during the transition period

The existing systems reporting will be used in transition, as was agreed in the document presented to the Commission in November 2017 and there was no further discussion in relation to this at the meeting.

The Secretariat reported that existing CNCPs have been informed that there will be changes to the system in the medium term, (as per the letter drafted by the WG) and have also been informed of the agreed timeline for the adoption of UN/CEFACT. It was agreed to keep the CNCP FMCs informed on the developments that will affect them directly.

10.2 End date of transition period

The end date for the transition period will be in accordance with recommendation 16: 2018 on the adoption of UN/CEFACT which gives up to 2 years following the successful implementation of the system between EU and the Secretariat, making the predicted date for adoption across all communicating parties no later than Jun 2021.

11. Questions to JAGDM

The Secretariat informed the Participants on the general needs for business continuity framework. The Participants discussed the possible options in terms of business continuity with some proposing to request JAGDM advice and others arguing the AHWG ERS had the expertise necessary to find technical solutions aligned with the ISMS.

It was agreed that JAGDM would discuss the EU draft business continuity plan (AHWG ERS 2017-02-15) at their next meeting, which will be March 20/21 2018.

12. Report to the September 2018 Meeting of PECMAC

The report will be drafted by the Secretariat and circulated to the Chair and the Participants for comments. The final version of the report was adopted on 2 March 2018. The Chair will present to PECMAC’s September 2018 a summary of this working group conclusions.
13. Any other business
   13.1 Identification of final documents
   It was agreed that none of the documents produced for and during the meeting are final versions and are therefore restricted. Once approved the meeting report is a final version.

14. Date and Place of the next meeting
The next meeting will take place in London on the 23 and 24 April 2018.

15. Closure of the Meeting
The Chair thanked participants and the Secretariat for their active participation and wished all a safe journey back home.

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